

Please replace the third paragraph on page six with the following rewritten version:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

AN  
An electrolyte process is provided for plasma microarc oxidation for the purpose of obtaining a ceramic coating on the surface of a metal workpiece having semiconducting properties, such as aluminium, titanium, magnesium, hafnium, zirconium and their alloys by a physico-chemical transformation reaction of the treated metal. The porosity of the ceramic layer is decreased, obtaining a very dense and uniformly thick layer over the entire surface of the workpiece. Furthermore, the time to grow the ceramic on the surface of the metal workpiece is reduced, while decreasing the electrical energy consumed. --

Please insert the following section heading after the fourth paragraph on the tenth page of the specification:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert the following section heading before the fifth paragraph on the eleventh page:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--

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